

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE OF UKRAINE  
THE NATIONAL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF UKRAINE  
"IGOR SIKORSKY KYIV POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE"  
FACULTY OF LINGUISTICS

INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

# DIGITAL INCLUSION IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING

14th June  
2024



# CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

Kyiv, Ukraine

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*Digital Inclusion in English Language Teaching*: Proceedings of the International Scientific Conference, 14 June 2024. K., 2024. 66 p.

The edition features the proceedings of the International Scientific Conference " *Digital Inclusion in English Language Teaching*", held on 14 June 2024. This collection brings together contributions from scholars and practitioners, offering insightful perspectives and practical knowledge for scientists, educators, and students in higher education institutions.

***Responsibility for the accuracy of facts, quotations, proper names and other information are on the authors of publications***

## BLENDED LEARNING IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING FOR SPECIAL PURPOSES

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In the field of *English Language Teaching* (ELT), there are some important emerging trends and innovations that are constructing the way English is taught and studied. Here is one of the most notable trends:

*Blended Learning* is a teaching approach that combines traditional face-to-face instructing with online learning components. In English Language Teaching (ELT), blended learning has achieved popularity due to its ability to leverage technology and provide flexible, personalized learning experiences [1]. Here's how blended learning is implemented in ELT:

*Online Content Delivery:* lecturers use online platforms, learning management systems, or educational websites to deliver instructional content, such as videos, audio recordings, reading materials, grammar tasks and interactive exercises. Students can access these materials at their own pace and convenience, allowing for self-directed learning and review outside of the classroom.

*Interactive Activities and Assignments:* blended learning environments incorporate interactive activities and assignments that engage students and promote active participation. These activities may contain online quizzes, discussion forums, collaborative projects, virtual simulations, and multimedia presentations, providing opportunities for language practice and skill development.

Interactive activities and assignments play a crucial role in English Language Teaching by engaging students, promoting active participation, and facilitating language learning. Here are various types of interactive activities and assignments commonly used in ELT:

➤ *Role-plays and Simulations:* students act out scenarios or assume different roles in simulated real-life situations, such as booking a hotel, ordering food in the cafe, negotiating a business deal, or interviewing for a job. Role-plays encourage communication, problem-solving, and language use in authentic contexts, allowing students to practice language skills in meaningful ways;

➤ *Pair and Group Discussions:* students are involved in discussions with their classmates to share ideas, opinions, and experiences on a given topic or theme. Pair and group

discussions encourage collaboration, critical thinking, and communication skills, as students exchange information, express their points of view, and respond to each other's contributions;

- *Debates and Discussions:* students participate in structured debates or discussions on controversial topics, presenting arguments, defending viewpoints, and engaging in reasoned discourse. Debates and discussions promote critical thinking, persuasion, and language fluency, as students analyze issues, create arguments, and speak out their opinions effectively;

- *Information-Gap Activities:* students work in pairs or groups to complete tasks or solve problems that involve sharing and exchanging information. Information-gap activities require students to communicate effectively, ask and answer questions, and seek clarification to bridge gaps in knowledge or understanding;

- *Problem-solving Tasks:* students collaborate to solve problems, puzzles, or challenges that require critical thinking, creativity, and language use. Problem-solving tasks encourage students to apply language skills in practical contexts, identify solutions, and work together to achieve goals;

- *Jigsaw Activities:* students are divided into small groups, with each group assigned a different piece of information or task related to a larger topic or project. Jigsaw activities promote cooperative learning, as students share their knowledge, collaborate to complete tasks, and integrate their contributions to construct a comprehensive understanding of the topic.

- *Interactive Games and Quizzes:* students participate in educational games, quizzes, and interactive activities that reinforce language skills, vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation. Interactive games and quizzes provide a fun and engaging way for students to practice language skills, compete with peers, and receive immediate feedback on their performance. These interactive activities and assignments enhance the effectiveness of English language teaching by providing students with opportunities to engage actively, apply language skills in meaningful contexts, and develop proficiency through authentic communication and collaboration.

*Synchronous and Asynchronous Communication:* blended learning allows for both synchronous (real-time) and asynchronous (delayed) communication between lecturers and students. Synchronous communication may involve live video conferences, chat sessions, or virtual classrooms, while asynchronous communication includes email correspondence, discussion boards, and feedback on assignments.

In ELT, a combination of synchronous and asynchronous communication modes is often used to create a blended learning environment that offers both real-time interaction and self-paced learning opportunities. By leveraging synchronous communication for live instruction, discussions, and feedback sessions, and asynchronous communication for accessing course materials, completing assignments, and engaging in reflective activities, educators can provide a dynamic and engaging learning experience that meets the diverse needs of learners.

*Personalized Learning Paths:* blended learning environments enable personalized learning paths tailored to individual learner needs, preferences, and proficiency levels.

Lecturers can use online assessments, diagnostic tests, and learning analytics to track learner progress, identify areas for improvement, and provide targeted support and feedback [3].

*Flexibility and Accessibility:* blended learning offers flexibility and accessibility, allowing students to access educational content anytime, anywhere, and on any device with internet access.

This flexibility accommodates diverse learning styles, schedules, and preferences, making language learning more convenient and inclusive for students.

*Integration of Classroom and Online Activities:* blended learning seamlessly integrates classroom-based instruction with online learning activities, creating a cohesive and comprehensive learning experience. Lecturers design learning sequences that combine face-to-face interactions, group work, and online activities to reinforce language learning objectives and foster learner engagement.

Overall, blended learning in ELT provides a dynamic and interactive learning environment that combines the benefits of traditional instruction with the opportunities afforded by technology. By integrating online resources, interactive activities, and personalized learning approaches, educators can create engaging and effective language learning experiences for students in today's digital age.

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